Coordinating Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Funding: Overview of State Practices

Jeff Hughes

jhughes@sog.unc.edu

Environmental Finance Center School of Government University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 919 843-4956

www.efc.unc.edu





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- NC Rural Center
- Appalachian Regional Commission
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Representatives from other state coordinating efforts

General Coordination Objectives

- Improved applicant customer service (utilities)
- Support funding program efforts and operations (funders)
- Stretch public funding dollars (citizens)

EFC Funding Coordination Study (Spring 2006)

- Twenty-five individual interviews and one four-person focus group
- Respondent Groups
 - Funding Agencies
 - Regulatory Agencies
 - State/Regional Planning Organizations
 - **OLocal Governments**
 - Technical Assistance Providers

^{**}Funding Provided by NC Rural Center

Funding Coordination Study: Preferred Coordination Services

SERVICE OFFERED	% STRONGLY AGREE OR AGREE
Needs Database	91%
Summary of Eligibility Requirements	91%
Conferences, Workshops, or Fairs	83%
Planning Assistance for Communities	82%
Long-term State-level Planning	78%
Regionalization	61%
Central Information Repository	59%
Single Uniform Application	52%
Recommend Specific Projects	17%

Structural Differences Among State Coordination Models

- Enabling documents
- Institutional framework and "glue"
- Membership/participation
- Meetings
- Organization of work efforts/staffing

Funding Coordination Practices

Common

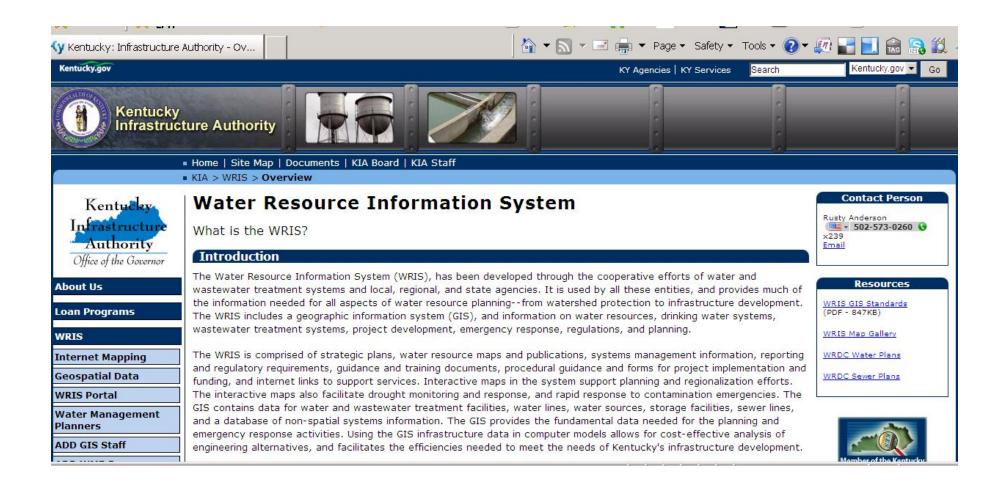
- Structured
- Committed participants
- USDA participation
- Strong leadership
- Focus on a few services

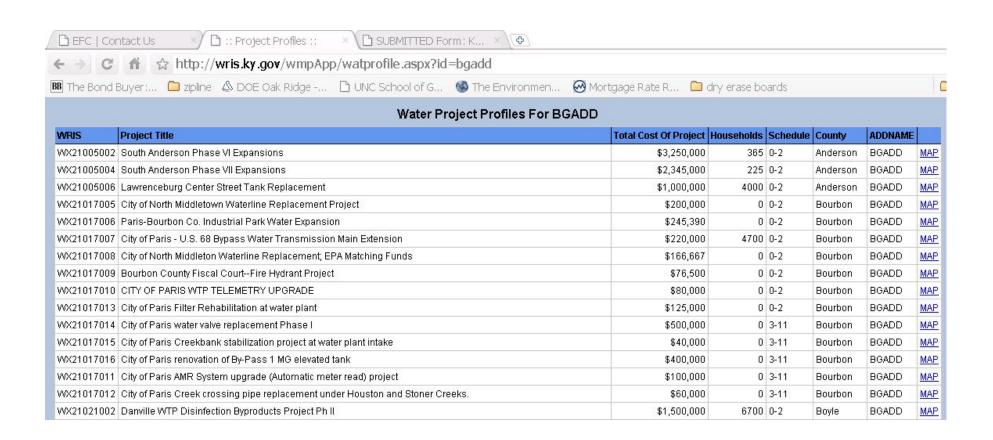
<u>Uncommon</u>

- Require funders to fund projects contrary to their funding objectives
- Significant staff resources
- Comprehensive
- Resemble neighboring states

Examples

- Water Resource Information System (KY)
- Coordination Application Process (WV)
- Funding forums (GA, NC)
- Statewide Infrastructure Planning

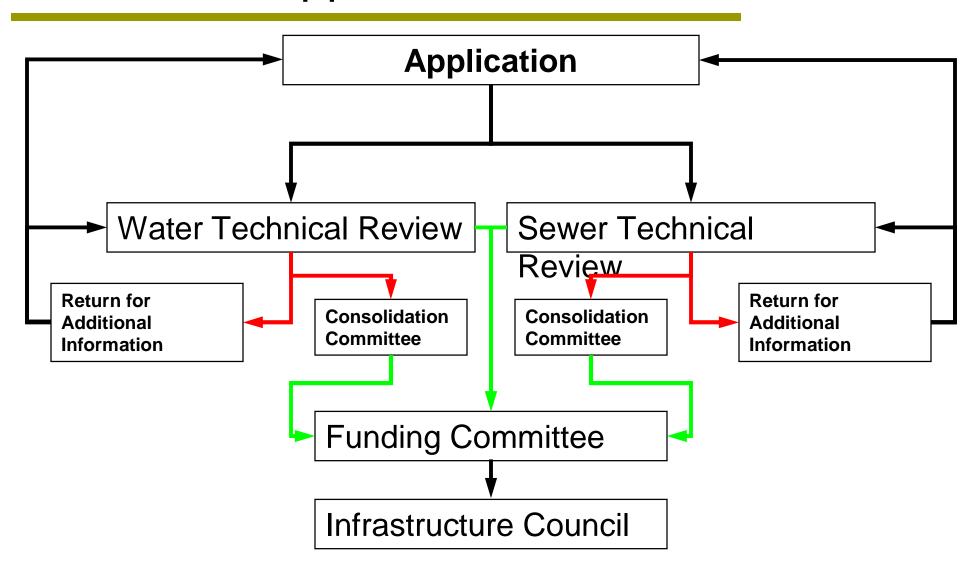




- Current infrastructure
- Proposed infrastructure
- System information (interconnections, fiscal)
- Uniform project numbers
- Applicants required to have projects in systems
- Linked to other information systems

- Coordinated and funded by Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (2 to 3 dedicated employees)
- Systems surveyed/visited two times per year by regional planning organizations (Area Development Districts) (annual contracts total approximately \$1.4 M)
- Funded by mix of appropriations and loan fees

WV Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council: Application Review Process



Outreach Services (GA, NC)

- Funding Roundtables
- Funding Forums
- Funding Fairs

Statewide Infrastructure Planning

- Many needs assessments
- Few funding plans
- Inventories with proposed funding sources (WV)

Additional Resources

 UNC EFC Funding Coordination Resource Page

(http://www.efc.unc.edu/projects/infrastructurecoordination.htm)

 EPA Handbook of Coordinating Water and Wastewater Funding

(http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw000/dwsrf/pdfs /guide_dwsrf_funding_infrastructure.pdf)